

## **An Interview with Andrew Ruddy**

**Q: Where did you attend school?**

A: Indiana School for the Deaf.

**Q: How did you become deaf?**

A: I had bacterial meningitis when I was 9 months old.

**Q: How many years did you attend ISD?**

A: I started there when I was 18 months old, for a total of 17 years.

**Q: When did you graduate?**

A: I graduated in 2004. I was salutatorian of my class.

**Q: Are you attending a college or university now?**

A: Yes, I am attending Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis.

**Q: Did you take any classes in high school to prepare you for Ivy Tech?**

A: Yes, I took Auto Repair at Arsenal Tech High School for two years.

**Q: Why did you pick auto mechanics for your career?**

A: I love to fix automobiles. I enjoy using my hands and mind to figure out what is wrong and what I can do to fix it.

**Q: Did you consider several universities before you chose Ivy Tech?**

A: Yes. I considered Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., NTID (National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York), and Indiana State University.

**Q: Why did you pick Ivy Tech?**

A: The automotive program is very good and near my home. It is affordable at \$87.75 per credit.

**Q: What steps did you take before enrolling in Ivy Tech?**

A: I talked with my automotive class teacher, Mr. Deere, at Arsenal Tech about which schools were good. I also attended the Ivy Tech Automotive Open House to learn more about their programs. Then, I was able to sit in on some classes at IVY Tech, while I was still in high school.

**Q: What services does Ivy Tech provide for you?**

A: Disability Services provides interpreters, guidance to help me choose classes, tutoring, notetakers, and helps me get permission for extra time on tests.

**Q: What role has Vocational Rehabilitation played in your education?**

A: They pay for qualified interpreters.

**Q: Are you presently employed?**

A: Yes, I work at Crossroads Chrysler and Jeep Dealership as a service technician. Before Crossroads, I worked at an independent shop for two years.

**Q: What classes are you taking this semester at Ivy Tech?**

A: I am taking 12 credits: American History, Algebra, Engine Performance III, and Introduction to Motor Sports.

**Q: How are your grades?**

A: I am on the Dean's List!

**Q: When will you be graduating?**

A: I hope to graduate in the spring semester, as I only need three classes before I can get my associate degree in applied science.

**Q: What are your plans for the future?**

A: After I graduate from Ivy Tech, I want to work full time at Crossroads Chrysler and Jeep as a service technician. I will then work on becoming a master technician.